



USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) Guidance for Partners Engaging in Food Security Activities in the Central African Republic in Fiscal Year 2019

Introduction

Since 2013, the Central African Republic (CAR) has been mired in civil war and violent conflict that has led to large numbers of internally displaced people (IDPs) and an ongoing humanitarian crisis. As of September 2018, there were an estimated 643,000 IDPs and thousands of others had fled to neighboring countries, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The food security Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) report from September 2018 indicates that 1.9 million people in CAR are experiencing acute food insecurity, which represents approximately 39 percent of the entire population. The main cause of food insecurity is conflict, which has led to displacement of people, loss of assets and inability to continue agricultural production and other livelihood opportunities. The CAR government controls only a small fraction of the country, while the majority of the country is controlled by armed militias, many of whom fragmented from Seleka and anti-Balaka forces. These armed groups often purport to protect Muslim or Christian communities, but regularly prey upon civilians through illegal taxation, looting and violence. This has led to cyclical displacement of populations, who are compelled to flee from their homes and farms and are unable to plant and harvest crops. In addition to a lack of agricultural production and livelihood opportunities, rising food commodity prices, decreased rainfall and very poor infrastructure are all factors that lead to large numbers of food insecure and malnourished people.

The ongoing response in the CAR presents specific challenges for food assistance delivery due to insecurity and access challenges. The CAR is one of the most dangerous countries in the world for humanitarian actors, and access to people in need is difficult from both a security and logistical perspective (as infrastructure is either non-existent or in disrepair).

This guidance is intended to outline USAID/FFPs approach to addressing some of the challenges encountered in the context described above, while fulfilling USAID/FFP's mission to save lives, reduce suffering and support the early recovery of populations affected by both acute and protracted emergencies.

This guidance is to be used in conjunction with the Emergency Food Security Program requirements found in the current [Annual Program Statement \(APS\) for International Emergency Food Assistance](#), and must not be used in isolation. Please see additional *Application and Submission Guidance* for the CAR response below. Further, this guidance applies only to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and not to Public International Organizations (PIOs).

Emergency Food Security Program resources can be found here:
<https://www.usaid.gov/food-assistance/what-we-do/emergency-activities>

USAID/FFP Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Approach in the CAR

Diverse modalities approach (including cash): USAID/FFP is open to supporting the use of a range of appropriate food assistance modalities including but not limited to: local or regional procurement, food vouchers, and direct cash transfers to participants. The proposed modality or modalities should be tailored to the context and the needs of the targeted population. In addition to diverse appropriate food assistance modalities, Food for Peace will consider support to “essential complementary activities”, as detailed further in the section below.

IDP focus, including assistance to host communities: The majority of food insecure people in the CAR are IDPs, many of whom have lost their assets and are unable to engage in agricultural production or other livelihood opportunities. However, as the presence of IDPs has put additional pressure on already vulnerable host communities, food assistance should target both IDPs and host communities so as to support all people in need and not exacerbate any tensions between IDPs and host communities.

FY 2019 Key Areas of USAID/FFP Focus

The sections below describe key primary and secondary areas of FFP focus in CAR in FY 19. These are intended to indicate areas of particular FFP focus to potential applicants and do not limit FFP’s ability to consider any concept paper that meets APS criteria. FFP will consider all geographic areas proposed.

Primary

Food assistance to the most vulnerable households: To support vulnerable IDP and host community households who are food insecure due to conflict and displacement, lack physical and/or financial access to food, and have depleted livelihood assets, USAID/FFP will consider applications for targeted food assistance through the most appropriate modality. Applicants may indicate their flexibility, where feasible, to shift between modalities based on changing market trends, and shifting conflict lines and areas of operation. With all modalities, USAID/FFP expects market assessments justifying the modality choice

(<https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1866/ModalityDecisionTool.pdf>), and harmonization with other humanitarian actors, such as the UN World Food Program.

Secondary

As a secondary area of focus, FFP will also consider supporting the following program activities; however, inclusion of these activities is not required for funding. Note that essential complementary activities, as defined in the APS for International Emergency Food Assistance, will receive limited consideration for funding.

- **Essential complementary activities, enhancing agricultural livelihoods:** To support food insecure households due to the depletion of livelihood assets and resources, USAID/FFP may support agricultural livelihoods activities through essential complementary activities aimed at improving food security. Essential complementary

activities might include activities such as provision of farming inputs (such as seeds and tools), provision of agronomic technical assistance and proper post-harvest handling techniques.

- **Essential complementary services, nutrition:** To support improved nutrition, USAID/FFP may support activities such as sensitization on good dietary practices, combining agricultural support with nutrition messaging that promotes consumption of nutrient-rich crops, promotion of appropriate infant and young child feeding practices in emergencies and/or other social and behavior change communication associated with improving nutrition in the CAR.
- **Rapid response mechanisms to provide emergency food assistance:** Given the fluid and shifting geographic insecurity, USAID/FFP will consider rapid response mechanisms, which provide emergency food assistance, through diverse, appropriate in-kind and/or cash-based (food vouchers, voucher fairs, direct cash transfer) modalities, in response to alerts.

Local and Regional Procurement Guidance

As per the APS and current Food for Peace Information Bulletin (FFPIB) guidance, USAID/FFP prioritizes procurement in developing countries. Please consult FFPIB resources available at: <https://www.usaid.gov/food-assistance/resources/food-peace-information-bulletins> for further details on USAID/FFP's policy on commodity source and origin.

Application and Submission Guidance

This guidance is intended to be supplementary to the application and submission information found in the current APS.

Concept paper submission: Concept papers are accepted on a rolling basis. Applicants may discuss concept papers with USAID/FFP Field Officers prior to official submission. For contact information for USAID/FFP field-based contacts please email kinshasaffpoffice@usaid.gov. As per the current APS guidance, concept papers should be submitted online through the Food for Peace Management Information System (FFPMIS). Applicants, including those applying for a funded extension or a modification of existing FFP-funded emergency activity, can submit a concept paper for consideration. All documents submitted should be in accordance with the format detailed in the APS.

Application submission: If invited to submit an application, applicants should upload the application to FFPMIS. The application process has been designed to minimize the time needed for award approval.

Please note there is no time limit or approval deadline associated with the CAR application review process. USAID/FFP will endeavor to make award decisions as quickly as possible. In addition, USAID/FFP reserves the right to fund none, part of, or all of the applications received.